



City of **Edwardsville**

Third Oldest City in Illinois

Office of the Mayor
Hal Patton

September 20, 2017

Dear Amazon Board of Directors,

Three weeks prior to the announcement of your search for a second headquarters location, I was cutting a ribbon celebrating the one-year anniversary of two Amazon Fulfillment Centers in our City of Edwardsville, Illinois. I spoke of your company's vision and the "Evolution of Retail" to a crowd of state and federal representatives who were surrounded by a smiling, motivated workforce. The facilities have made an awesome impact on our county of 260,000 residents and the greater St. Louis region of nearly two million people. Thank you!

The RFP is very intriguing, as it appears to allow communities of our size to be involved in the competition. The requirement for a minimum of 100 acres will challenge many heavily developed urban areas. Suburbs, such as Edwardsville, are more likely to have that amount of undeveloped, affordable acreage. We are fortunate to have several 100 acre plus sites near major interstate interchanges to meet this requirement. And while other areas may have the land, we are unparalleled when it comes to quality of life and dependable workforce.

Our premier 100-acre site is immediately west of I-55, the interstate that connects Chicago and St. Louis and on the east side of a new 83-acre family sports park. The property is literally in the Heartland of the Midwest; twenty minutes east of downtown St. Louis, a four-hour drive north to Chicago, four hours east to Indianapolis, four hours south to Memphis, and four hours west will get you to Kansas City. The location is convenient for employees and is visible to tens of thousands of commuters every day.

While our location is ideal, it is our quality of life and workforce that I would like to brag about most. Known twenty years ago as a bedroom community for the St. Louis workforce, our residents helped make companies like Monsanto, Enterprise, Anheuser-Busch, Boeing, and Centene become leaders in their respective trades. The people of Edwardsville are highly educated and dedicated to the success of their employers.

Our local school district, District 7, has over 7,500 students boasting a high school that is second to none in the state of Illinois when combining educational programs, athletics, community service requirements, and safety. The 2016 class boasted two perfect scores on the ACT and a composite score of 23.2. Four students were named as National Merit Scholar semi-finalists. Our marching band was the best in the Midwest, girls basketball and boys baseball were second in the state, boys track won the state championship, and our ice hockey team finished third at the National Championship.

Higher education students attend a thriving campus of 14,000 plus at Southern Illinois University Edwardsville (SIUE) or receive a diverse occupational curriculum at Lewis and Clark

Community College. SIUE has a strong engineering school, pharmacy, nursing, and dental school component. Last year's SIUE solar car team competed at the national level and finished tenth among 18 teams from institutions such as UCLA-Berkeley, Georgia Tech, and Northwestern University.

For our residents, we have a vibrant downtown with award winning restaurants, over 130 miles of paved bike trails intersecting through different parts of Edwardsville, for twenty years a bountiful farmers market attracting over 2,000 visitors every weekend, and a community theatre for music and performing arts. On the weekends our Parks Department is busy with "Arts in the Park" and a 70-piece municipal band with over 140 years of history. Residents tell me there is no reason to travel outside of Edwardsville for shopping, eating, or entertainment.

In closing, you will find that we meet every aspect of your RFP and our hope is that we make the cut to be a site you will visit. I hope we have proven ourselves to be great partners in your growth. Choosing a town like Edwardsville would be too bold a move for most companies, but not for Amazon.

Sincerely,



Mayor Hal Patton
City of Edwardsville Illinois